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By the King.



Hereas wee haue euer since it pleased God to establish vs in the Imperiall Crowne of Great Britaine, equally regarded the good of both the late Kingdome of Scotland and England, now happily united in our Royal person in one Monarchie, euer minding to maintaine and continue the good and lawable customes and Lawes whereby each of them hath beene these many ages so worthily gouerned: neuerthelesse some malitious spirits, enemies to that common tranquilitie so much desired by vs (forgetting the many prooves both publique and priuate, which we haue giuen of that our gratiouse affection to that our native and ancient countrey of North Britaine, of the freedome, libertie and priuiledges whereof wee haue at all occasions taken so speciall a patrociny, as the solemn assemblies of the Estates of South Britaine, and Commissioners from the Estates of both Kingdomes haue beeene eye witnessses) haue not beeene ashamed to labour to pervert the mindes of our best affected subiects. That whereas the insolent and factious carriage of some of them hath merited most seuere animaduersion, they would insinuate themselues in the commiseration of the multitude, by assuming vnto them a gloriouse profession of the maintaining of the priuiledges and auctorized discipline, intended by vs (as they affirme) to be vtterly ouerthowne by a sudden and vnreasonable laying vpon them at this present the Rites, Ceremonies, and whole Ecclesiasticall order established in the Church of this part of our Kingdome of Britaine. And as wee haue euer carefully regarded how conuenient it is to maintaine every Countrey in that forme of government which is fittest and can best agree with the constitution thereof, and how dangerous alterations are without good aduice and mature deliberation, and that euен in matters of order of the Church, in some small Islands vnder our Dominions, we haue abstained from suffering any alteration: So doubt we not, but our good Subiects will neuer be that credulous contrary to the knowne trueth, which hath euer appeared clearly in all our Actions, as to be in any doubt, but as in all our proceedings wee haue beeene a Patrone of Religion and Justice, (two inseparablae conseruers of all Monarchies,) So hath all our study and care euer beeene to retrench and reforme all courses that caried any prejudice to that integritie whereat wee haue euer aymed, and as by so many good Lawes set forth in our government, Justice hath attained to another perfection and splendor, then it had in any our predecessors times, and with painfull and vnpleasant busynesse, wee haue in the discipline of the Church taken away innumerable abuses and corruptions, which if they had not beeene remedied, had brought the puritie of Religion in extreame danger. Yet wee hope that none dare be so impudent as to affirme that by our Soueraigne power, or absolute commandement we did the same (although wee enjoyed our auctoritie as freely as any King or Monarch of the wold) but as the disease of the Ciuill body was euer cured by the aduise of our three Estates, So the defects of the Church by the helpe and counsell of those who had greatest interest in them, So as the presumpcion of our by-gone actions in our administration, whiles wee were present, the proose of our fathery care towards this part of our Kingdome since our residence here, may be sufficient to secure vs against all such malitious calumniations. And how euer in rule of pollicie wee cannot but iudge it conuenient that two estates so inseparably conioyned, should be drawn to as great conformitie in all things as the good of both may permit; And that no Monarchy either in Ciuill or Ecclesiasticall pollicie hath yet attained to that perfection, that it needs no reformation, or that infinite occasions may not arise whereupon wise Princes will foresee for the beſte of their States, iuft cause of alteration: Yet are wee and haue euer beeene resolued, not to make any sudden or hasty change in the gouernement of that part of our Kingdome, either Ciuill or Ecclesiasticall, but with graue aduice and consent of our Estates, and the wiſteſt and beſt ſort of them whom it moſt properly concerneſ, muſt leſſe to trouble them with any vneceſſary alteration of indiſſerent and Ceremoniall matters, and that vpon ſuſh foreſeeene aduantages, and preuention of conuſion and euill to come, as the greateſt enemies of all Peace, obedience to Princes, and order in all gouernments ſhall not obtrude any inconuenient to the contrary. And as by Gods holy assistance, wee haue drawn that part of our Kingdome out of infinite troubles, factiōns, and cruell barbarities, and reduced the vttermoſt borders and confines thereof to Gods obedience, and acknowledgēng of our Lawes; (an Estate neuer heard of before, ſince this Iſland hath beeene inhabited) So by the ſame diuine providence and our fathery care ouer the whole Iſland, wee intend to transmit the ſame in good order, happy quietneſſe, and flouriſhing pollicie to that posteritie wherewith God hath bleſſed vs, and after them to the worlds end; Like as for the moſe veriſication of our Honourable intention, and to ſtop the mouthes of theſe vniquiet ſpirits, raiſers of that falſe ſcandal of alteration, we haue appointed a generall assembly to be holden at Dundee the laſt Tuesday of July, wherat we expeſt reparation of thoſe disorders in ſo farre as beſongeth to their censure, and to be freed in time comming of all ſuch calumniies.

Giuen at our Honour of Hampton Court the 26. day of September, in the third yeere of our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

Anno Dom. 1605.

God ſave the King.

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